SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Chair has been threatened, the way it has been done. A reflection is being cast. I demand the remarks to be expunged. It is a reflection on the Chair.... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You see, we spent 16 minutes on one question. I saw that the supplementaries were such which should have been directed to the Minister for Health and Family Planning. That is why...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, what about the economic content of planning for population? The Minister has not replied to this point. He spoke only on health matters. You are carried away by his reply. We want to know, what is the planning priority.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have told you on behalf of the Planning Minister that he is providing money for different schemes and those schemes are to be implemented by the State Governments and other things are to be implemented by the Health Ministry. Already we spent 16 minutes on this question. Other questions are as important as the first one.

...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, it is very important and we want to have Half an Hour Discussion on this. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, during the last Session, we had a special discussion on family planning initiated by me and only ten Members were present at that time. They always ask for discussion but when the discussion takes place, nobody is present. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: We are interested in economic question and not in Upendra's question. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: We reques' Half an Hour Discussion on this question. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: So far as this is concerned, it has been settled that the Committee's recommendations, their gist will be circulated. He has said that the money is being provided by the Centre for different schemes which are to be implemented by various State Governments. Now as to what methods are to be adopted and then there was a question about child marriage, again there is a law and all of you were restless when the question was being answered. Then I always get the complaint that I give so much time. I gave 16 minutes to this question and five minutes to this discussion.... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: We are exercised because family planing programme has failed. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just as there is indulgence for maiden speech, there should be indulgence for maiden answer.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : That is very good, Sir. We are all exercised because family planning in this country has failed in spite of heavy expenditure incurred for that. Therefore, we are all concerned about this. Therefore, there is a demand for the debate from all quarters here. I plead with you, you may allow another discussion on family planning programme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will be meeting at 4 o' clock and whatever is to be done, we will decide. Now let us move on to the next question. Q. No. 22.

Repartriation of Chakma Refugees

*22 SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any fresh steps for the repatriation of Chakma refugees now being lodged in Tripura;

(b) whether there have been bilateral discussions between the Governments of India and Bangladash on this issue recently; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Government have been maintaining continuous contact with the Bangladesh Government to persuade them to take the necessary steps to create conditions in the Chittagong Hill Tracts which would give the refugees the confidence to return to their homes voluntarily. We

have also been making it clear that it is the responsibility of the Bangladesh Government to convince the refugees that necessary conditions exist for them to return in safety.

(c) A Bangladesh delegation consisting of their High Commissioner in India and tribal leaders visited the refugee camps on July 11 to meet the refuges. The refugees handed over a list of their demands to the team.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, I would like to know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that there have been widespread killings, arson and loot in the hilly tracts of Bangladesh on the Chakmas since April 1986 and that too with the active connivance of the Government of Bangladesh. Many of them had to flee from there and take shelter in Tripura. The Amnesty International has also brought out certain facts on the atrocities perpetrated on them. There has been also a constant effort on the part of the Bangladesh Government to force resettlement colonisation of the majority community in the area which is being inhabited by this ethnic minority of Chakmas exactly in the similar way as the Sinhalese odonisation has been done in the Tamil areas in Sri Lanka. May I know whether all these facts have been conveyed or have been brought to the notice of the Bangladesh Government and what is their reaction or response to these facts being mentioned to them?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, not only all these facts are known to the Government of Bangladesh but they have been promising time and again that they would restore conditions of safety and security for the Chakma refugees to go back. Sir, there are more than 50,000 of them. No one would like to leave his hearth and home and go to another country to settle there even temporarily unless there are compelling reasons. As the House is probably aware, last year, in August 1987 the Prime Minister sent me on this special mission to Dhaka to meet President Ershad and plead with him that something needs to be done immediately in order to see that these Chakma refugees, who have become a burden to us although on humanitarian grounds we have been keeping them, go back. I had a long talk with President Ershad and I may inform the House ...(*Interruptions*)..that he was very categorical... (*Interruptions*)...He very clearly said that he accepted the responsibility for the return of all the refugees whatever their number might be. These were his very words. There has been some confusion about the numbers. They have not been forthcoming and they have been saying that the numbers that we say have not been fully verified. Verification or no verification, the President was very categorical in his statement that he wants to take all of them I repeat, all of them, whatever their number be. He also said that he would oversee this issue personally and that he would appoint immediately one of his Ministers to head a team to go and meet these people, convince them and see that as quickly as possible they are enabled to return to their homes. I came away satisfied and reported the matter to the Prime Minister. Some days ago, about the 4th or 5th of July, the Bangladesh High Commissioner called on me and told me that he was going to meet the refugees on the 11th. Now, I was a little taken aback because I could not have imagined that what was decided or what was communicated through me to the Prime Minister on the 17th August 1987 would be hanging fire for more than eleven months. But thought it that they were making very pucca kind of arrangements on the other side and so they might have taken some more time although it is an inordinate delay by any standards. They went there. And I am sorry to say, Sir, that we have not heard anything directly from them. What they seem to have done is, after having gone there, they went back to Dhaka. They gave a statement. The Bangladesh Foreign Secretary gave a public statement, press statement, saying that the Chakmas are very willing to come but some handful of Shanti Bahini people are stopping them. Mind you, Sir, 50,000 is the number, more than 50,000 is the number. And a handful of people are stopping them and therefore, they are not coming. This kind of excuse, if I may put it that way, was trotted out. This has

been the normal pattern of their public statements. I have not heard from the High Commissioner personally. Officially we have not heard from the Government except what has appeared in Bangladesh press. So, we came to the conclusion that we might have to continue persuading them further. Our reports say that the Chakma refugees when they were approached by the Committee headed by the High Commissioner, were not satisfied in a manner as to enable them to go back. So naturally much more remains to be done. This is a matter which will have to be taken up and we will continue to take it up until it is settled. At this moment, as of now, I do no think I will be able to add anything. This is the report which we got. The Bangladesh Foreign Secretary also said something about the Chief Minister of Tripura and the Chief Secretary of Tripura. He said that the team met them, called on them, and the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary were fully satisfied with the anxiety of the Bangladesh Government to take back their nationals. What he did not say was that the call was before the visit to the camps. They called on the Chief Minister on the 9th July, went to the refugees on the 11th July. So, the call on the Chief Minister would be nothing less than cordial. After that what happened, the Chief Minister was not told. I spoke to him this morning. I spoke to him personally and he said his report is that they were given only a charter of demands a memo of demands and nothing beyond that happened. This is the position. We will have to continue to take up this matter forcefully with the Bangladesh Government until the matter is settled.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I have an assurance from the honourable Minister that unless the list of demands which has been handed over to the delegation of Bangladesh headed by their High Commissioner in India is fully met, the Government of India would continue to help these refugees in Tripura on humanitarian grounds and shall not force them to leave the camps?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We should continue our efforts to see that the Bangladesh Government makes such arrangements as are satisfactory to the refugees so as to enable them to go back. The dialogue will continue and we will certainly take up the matter again and again until it is finally settled. We are sorry that public statements and private assurances are not tallying with each other at the moment. But this seems to be a pattern already come into force. We will have to break through this and see that something concrete emerges.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I wanted an assurance from him....

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: That is what I am saying. I am assuring the House that we will continue the efforts to see that the Bangladesh Government and the refugees come to a point where the refugees are able to go back and they are satisfied with the arrangements to take them back and this matter is satisfactorily settled. This is the assurance.

SHRIMATI OMEM MOYONG DEORI: We have Chakma refugees who came to Arunachal Pradesh, the then NEFA, twenty years back and at that time they numbered about 20,000 and this number has increased since then. It is their strong demand that they are sent to their homeland with dignity at the earliest possible. Will the honourable Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state whether the Government of India has also taken up with the Bangladesh Government the repatriation of Chakma refugees from Arunachal Pradesh?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: This question is confined to the Tripura refugees. I will take note of what the honourable Member has said and give her the information.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Since Bangladesh has been declared an Islamic State I am told that a large non-Muslim population there is being forcibly converted into Muslim owing to economic conditions, and at the same time the hill tracts are already being occupied by the plains people. Now, if the refugees are repatriated and settled, is there safety for their religion? They are Chakmas.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: All these factors are included in their demands and the problem has become very complex as a result of these multifarious factors.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: My particular question is whether he has discussed with the President about the religion, about the safety of the religion of the Chakma tribe.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Let me make it clear that neither do we want to share the responsibility with the Bangladesh Government nor do we want to interfere in solving or sorting out this problem. It is between that Government and the Chakma refugees. We are here only to give them refuge on humanitarian grounds and try our best to see that they go back. On no account will we be partners with the Bangladesh Government in getting this matter sorted out because it is between them and we are only making arrangements for their meeting whenever they want. This is all that we have promised to do and this is all that we are legitimately supposed to do.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: No, no. You can send the IPKF there!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayan Kar.

SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the reason for such a large influx of refugees into Tripura...(*Interruptions*)...Mr. Chairman, Sir the reasons for such a large influx of refugees into Tripura is the sense of insecurity among them as a result of the mass killings, arson, loot, etc. The question is whether during their recent visit, the Bangladesh authorities have agreed to give an assurance to these people about the security of life and property when these refugees go back to their homeland and also whether the Bangladesh Government is ready to accept all the refugees who have stayed in India.

I come to the second part of my question now. In the charter of demands that was handed over to the High Commissioner of Bangladesh, there is one point. There is a point about the supply of ration like, rice, dal etc. These items are going into the black market. Does the Government know all these facts? If it knows, it should take steps to prevent such things from taking place. It is also learnt that the refugees are paid very low rates by the local CPWD contractors. I would like to know whether the Government will look into all these matters.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, the question concerns the return of refugees, the Chakma refugees, from our soil to Bangladesh where they belong. I have already said that the first attempt on the part of the Bangladesh Government does not seem to have fructified. This is the first visit as far as I know. This is what has come as a report to us. Still we have not heard officially from that Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Narayansamy.

SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY: Sir, the honourable Minister has said that the problem of Bangladesh refugees is a human problem. The tribal population has crossed over to the Indian border because of the disturbances created by the non-tribal people. So, they came over to India. It is said that the tribal leaders are visiting their camps to persuade them to go back to Bangladesh, to the Chittagong Hill Tracts. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether the non-tribal leaders have given an assurance that there will be safety for the lives and property of these people, these Chakma refugees, if they return to the Chittagong Hill Tracts for which the Government of India also will be persuading the Bangladesh Government to give an assurance.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: That is why I said, "Send the IPKF there".

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We are all persuading them to give assurances that are credible and that will satisfy the other side.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Nagen Saikia.

SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir,...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Sir, we have taken twenty minutes on one question.

SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Sir, there is a good number of Chakma people in Assam also, the Chakma refugees. I want to know from the honourable Minister what steps the Government has taken to send back these refugees to Bangladesh.

Secondly, I would like to know whether there is any communication which has been made to the Balgladesh Government in this regard.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Just as I said in the case of Arunachal Pradesh, here also I would not be able to give any off-hand reply. But I will check on it and tell the honourable Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question. Question No. 23.

Development of Atomic Bombs by Pakistan

*23.SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU:†
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the latest issue of "News Week" magazine of New York, US that Pakistan has developed four complete atomic bombs that can be delivered by its F-16 fighter bombers or missile or jet aircraft supplied to U.S.A.; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what will be its impact on the defence and security preparedness of India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An article published in the *Newsweek* of the 11th July, 1988, cities Western intelligence sources as saying that Pakistan has as many as 4 atomic bombs and that the nuclear bomb fabricated by Pakistan is believed to be light enough to be delivered by its F-16 aircraft.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri K. V. Thangkabalu.

Government keep under constant review this as well as other developments having an adverse impact on the country's security and take appropriate counter-measures.

SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Sir, the report appearing in the 'Newsweek' is very alarming. According to the report, the CIA and the U.S. Defence Department officials are convinced that Pakistan made a complete bomb. This is in spite of our repeated requests to the U.S. Administration. They are going on arming Pakistan. It clearly shows the sinister designs of the U.S. Government. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is contemplating to give an ultimatum to the US. Administration for the stoppage of arming Pakistan further.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: The 'Newsweek' report is quite interesting, inasmuch as it not only says that Pakistan has four bombs but also that India has as many as 20 such devices. (*Interruptions*) So much for the truth. We know what it is. We do not go by reports, although reports appearing anywhere have to be taken into account, yet we have to do our own home work in checking out on facts. We are doing all that. As I said, we are vigilant about all these developments taking place in Pakistan. The Prime Minister has been bringing this to the notice of every Head of State or Head of Government in his meetings, because this is the kind of danger that is being posed to India, and it is our duty to bring it to the notice of friendly States so that some kind of pressure is brought to bear on those concerned. This is what he is doing, and rightly.

SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: My second question. Though the Prime Minister and the Government of India are taking up this matter so seriously and are taking this up with the various State Heads, yet it has been the regular feature and regular activity of the U.S. Government to create tension in this region. I would like to ask whether you are ready to face such danger in case they attack India.